The WHOLE PLEASURES OF MATRIMONY

Interwoven with ſundry

Comical and Delightful Stories

WITH

The Charming Delights, and Raviſhing Sweets of

Wooing and Wedlock,

In all it's diverting Enjoyments

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The PLEASURES of MATRIMONY.

IT is a ſtrange thing that people ſhould talk of the Fifteen Comforts or Pleaſures of Matrimony, as if they could be numbered: whereas, I affirm, That the Pleaſures in Matrimony are numberleſs. No wonder then, there is nothing more deſired or coveted than Matrimony, and that it has been in ſuch high eſteem among all nations, from the beginning of the world. It is true, there has been a clamour againſt it; and many that condemnit, and cry it down, miſtake Comforts for Diſcomforts.

And yet even thoſe who complain the moſt againſt Matrimony, will allow, that there are fifteen comforts in it; and if ſo though there were no more, which yet I will not grant, who, that is not a mad-man, would not marry to enjoy fifteen ſuch comforts as all the world cannot afford him beſides?—But what will ſuch men ſay to Wooing?—I own, indeed, it is not Matrimony itſelf, but it is the high-way to it; and he that marries without it, loſes one of the chiefeſt pleaſures that belongs to it: So, that in order to treat of the Pleaſures of Matrimony, I find it nececeſſary to begin with Wooing.

Wooing conſiſts in a man's pitching upon ſome object of his affection of the female ſex; and it is a comfort there are more maids than maukins, that he is not confined in his choice, for if one will not, another will.—Well, having fixed upon the deſired She, and found out her habitation, with what her fortune is, he next equips himſelf as fine as the taylor and ſempſtreſs can make him, and prepares for his addreſs; and it is a pleaſure to him to be thus rigged, to win his fair

miſtreſs. Now whether the girl have father or mother, uncle or aunt, there's none but will admit him to pay a viſit to his miſtreſs, when he comes in the way of Matrimony.

But now what pleaſure it is to be admitted to a kiſs, and a gracious ſmile from his miſtreſs. After that he has thus ſhewed himſelf, and talked idly to her about half an hour, what a pleaſure it is to him at his departure, to oblige her maid with the King's picture, which cauſes her to give ſuch a character of him, eſpecially if the picture happens to be ſet in gold, as he begets in the young woman an affection towards him; which if he comes to know at the ſecond meeting, it is impoſſible to deſcribe the tranſports it puts him into; it inſpires ſuch joy in his breaſt that he can ſcarce tell where he is, or what he does. But at his departure he ſcarce forgets to double his generoſity to the maid, as ſhe does her promiſes of further ſervices to him. Nor is the young bagg-ge worſe than her word, for ſhe too well knows her own intereſt, and therefore in about a day or two, Dear Miſtreſs,

ſays ſhe, you cannot imagine where I have been this morning. Noy ſays the young gentlewoman, how ſhould I? Why, ſays ſhe, I have been at the conjurors; but you cannot think what a man he is! I did but aſk whether ſuch a gentleman courted my miſtreſs? and caſting his eyes on his book, he told me he did; and deſcribed him ſo exactly, that no painter could have drawn his picture better; and beſides this, he told me, that this was the very man, and no other, whom fortune deſigned for you; but I would not have you believe me, but go to him yourſelf to-morrow.

The young gentlewoman hearing this, is all agog to know the truth of the matter; and having more mind for marriage than devotion, inſtead of prayers goes to the conjuror, and he had not been a cunning man if he had not told her right, being inſtructed by the maid beforehand what to ſay. Well, the young gentlewoman being ſatisfied it was the will of the Stars, begins preſently to have a good opinion of him, of which the maid fails not to acquaint him. Now judge, reader, if this is not an extraordinary plea-

ſure; for what can contribute more to his ſatisfaction, than to the find his miſtreſs go to the devil to make ſure of him.

But beſides this, there paſſes many letters; and Oh! what a pleaſure it is to him to ranſack all the academies of compliments for fine tropes and figures to adorn his ſtile with.—But then, her anſwers! how tranſporting they are! how often does he kiſs the blotted characters! But ſee how freſh pleaſures crowd upon him: Juſt now he is told his miſtreſs will be at dancing in Lime-ſtreet; this fans the encreaſing flame, nothing will ſerve but he muſt be with her; and then how he ſminks and ſimpers: but when he ſees her dance, he is all over tranſport: how much does he admire her lofty carriage, the holding up her petticoat enchants him, and the celeſtial motion of her buttocks makes his teeth chatter, and his heart go pit-a pat to think what he ſhall do with ſo much excellence.—But it would take a volume to tell the pleaſures of this interview: let it ſuffice to give him an opportunity to ſteal her pocket handkerchief; and to treat her and her maid at the tavern.—Nor can his miſtreſs now

refuſe to let him take as many kiſſes as he will, which yields him ſuch a mighty pleaſure, that he can talk of nothing elſe but the purple violet, the bluſhing roſe, and the lilly's whiteneſs; the phenix neſt is not ſo perfumed as ſhe; and to deſcribe her perſon, the riches of Mexico and Peru are far too mean to ſtand in competition with her; nay, all the dazzling jewels of the Eaſt muſt give way to her ſuperior luſtre. —— But when they have drank of the richeſt wines, to recompence him for all his pains and charge, his miſtreſs condeſcends to treat him too, letting him taſte the charming cherries of her coral lips, and ſuck from thence the fragrant breath that far exceeds Arabia's beſt perfumes; which wraps him in ſuch pleaſures, that the young ſpark imagines he is in heaven. And if the very way to Matrimony be thus paved with delight, what muſt the end of it be? and truly, were it not ſo, do you think the country clown would plough and harrow, yet fling away his ſickle and flail for the love of Amarillis? Or would the tradeſmen leave his ſhop, but for the pleaſures that attend it? It is this makes the apprentic

court in hugger mugger, and value not the loſs of his liberty, when once captivated by the fair Suſanna's bright eyes. So mightily tranſporting are the pleaſures of Wooing, above any other pleaſures in the world.

But if the pleaſures of wooing are ſo great, then what are the pleaſures of Wedding? Conſent being given, and the wedding reſolved on, the lover has now free acceſs to his miſtreſs, and may kiſs above-board as much as he pleaſes; the which is another vaſt pleaſure, as it is alſo to find himſelf the only welcome gueſt in the houſe, and, as it were, already innoculated into the family; and then it is another pleaſure to hear every one commending his choice, and telling him how virtuous wife he had choſen. Viſitors crowd in upon him, eſpecially of the fair ſex, aſking a thouſand impertinent queſtions, which muſt needs be a great pleaſure to him to anſwer. When is the day? cries Mrs. Prate-apace? Pray, Sir, how near is your happineſs cries Tittle-tattle? But in the midſt of theſe impertinencies, what a pleaſure it is to the young man to hear his mother elect taking

the women up, and saying, Hold neighbours, fair and softly goes far; she shall not be married in a hugger mugger; my child shall be married according to her quality; I am not for a stolen marriage.

But we will talk no more of the preliminaries, but come to the thing itself, for all things being settled, and the appointed morning come, up gets the bridegroom and dresses himself in all his gaudy attire. —— The bridemaids hasten to the bride's chamber, and there they find her washed, breathing nothing but essence and jessamine, and her fine holland smock ready to put on; so that, being dressed in a trice, she appeared more like an angel than a mortal. She was scarce dressed, but the bridegroom coming into her chamber, with submissive knees adores his earthly deity, and kisses the lillies of her white hands, and sips ambrosial nectar from her lips, and then conducts her to the room of state, where they both stand to welcome their invited guests. And sure this must yield him much pleasure. Now things being ready, they take coach environed by a great crowd of spectators, of which not one of them but must say

ſomething. —— There's a well matched couple, ſays one —— There's a lovely couple, ſays another. There will be ſweet doing betwixt them to-night, ſays a third. —And thus the rabble run along, till the church doors are ſhut, and keep them from coming any farther.—The knot is luckily tied which can never be undone, but by the death of one of them. And therefore after the ceremony 'I John take thee Joan to be my wedded wife; and I Joan take thee John, &c.' they go from church again, and firſt receive the joy of the beggars; the bridegroom, for the grandeur of the wedding, throwing amongſt them a handful of ſmall money, which ſets them ſcrambling; then taking coach, they return to the place from whence they ſet out, attended by the rabble, which is a mark of greatneſs.

Being come into the dining-room, the gueſts of courſe muſt all ſalute the bride, and in return, the bridegroom muſt ſalute all the young women, and this muſt ſure be a great pleaſure to him. — This uſual formality being over, the bridegroom then drinks a bumper unto the whole aſſembly.

By this time dinner is upon the table, and marshalled with as much formality as a Lord Mayor's feast; after the parson has said grace, they fall to without farther ceremony; and here comes a new pleasure to the bridegroom, to see all the guests address their glasses to the bride, and afterwards to him. And it will be a pleasure extraordinary to him if he can but keep himself sober till he goes to bed — Nor is it less pleasure to hear the discourse at the table after the second course; when a jolly red-nose toper, a pot-companion of the bride's father, began saying, Marriage was instituted in a state of innocency, nay, even in Paradise; and that without it the church would want pastors, and the kingdom soldiers to defend it.— Nay, farther, that children are blessings from heaven, and therefore barrenness was accounted the greatest scandal in the world among the Jewish women. Aye, and by the English women too, replies a grave old matron, and I should be sorry that my young mistress here (as well for my own sake as her's) should be under that curse; for I hope ere ten months, to carry her first boy to the font.

Dinner being over, the parſon bleſſes them; when the midwife comes to the bridegroom, ſaying, Now happy man for a maidenhead; but there is great diſcretion to be uſed in the gathering of it; it muſt be gently cropped, for fear of ſpoiling, for if you go too boiſterouſly to work you'll pull all up by the roots: but if you do it juſt by degrees, it is young and tender, and you will find it coming.

We will now ſuppoſe the afternoon worn out in dancing, to the great pleaſure of the ſpectators, and the night begun, the bride is ſtolen away from the company, and put to-bed; and after her the bridegroom, now ready to conſummate the higheſt joys of matrimony; but though the bridegroom now thinks each minute an age till he reaps the longed-for fruit of all his amorous expectations, he is ſtill obliged to wait with patience; for up comes the ſack poſſet which the women think will make the bridegroom kind and luſty too; nor can the bride and bridegroom get rid of this unneceſſary ceremony, until ſome good compaſſionate lady threw on purpoſe the ſtocking into the poſſet, when ſhe pretended to

throw it at the bride. This cauſed the Sack-poſſet to be taken away; which being done, it only remained now to kiſs the women round, and ſo depart, whilſt the bride's mother locked faſt the doors, and took away the key, that none might interrupt them. Then the two begun, being alone, the bridegroom doubtleſs improves his time, and therefore let this ſuffice, that they now revel in thoſe joys they not long before durſt hardly think of: And, for the bridegroom, as Carew expreſſes it,

Now his enfranchis'd hand, on every ſide
May o'er her naked poliſh'd ivory glide;
No curtain now, no tranſparent lawn,
Is there before her virgin treaſure drawn.
Now, void of all offence, he may behold,
Her bared ſnow, and her unbraided gold.

But though he had revelled in bliſs all night, yet his fair ſpouſe's mother came to the fair couple in the morning, to enquire how her deareſt daughter did? yet the ſon was firſt ſaluted with, Son, how is it? So well, ſaid he, I have been this night in Paradiſe.——With that ſhe

put into his hand a plate of comfortable ſweetmeats, conſiſting of eringoes, &c. for his ſpouſe and he to regale themſelves; which done, ſhe fills him a bowl of muſcadine, and drops a therein a new laid egg, which the bridegroom preſenting to the partner of his pleaſure, the mother fills another for himſelf, which, without entreating, he drank quickly off.——But mother Midnight, who longed to know how the bridegroom performed, and how many attacks he had made on the virgin fort, comes to the bride, and with a whiſper in the ear, would have her confeſs; but the lady replied only with a bluſh, which made the bridegroom gueſs what ſhe meant; and therefore told her it was an unfair queſtion, as yet, you ought, ſaid he, to tarry till we riſe; and ſince we are recruited thus, pray tarry till the phyſick has done working, and then take the whole account together. Upon this the mother and midwife retired. But the young couple had no ſooner agreed to digeſt what they had eat and drank, by taking a nap, but the drums and trumpets began to ſound, and in a moment the ſtreet was full of benedictions to the

bride and bridegroom; and this muſt be another pleaſure, for now the bridegroom, unwilling to pay the muſick for nothing, gets up and dances to the muſick, and this muſt needs be a great pleaſure, for all the ſenſes are pleaſed at once.

Now the next day is ſpent in being treated by the bridemen, at ſome principle tavern; and there can be no room for nothing but pleaſure.

The pleaſures of the wedding being over—how! over, did I ſay? I beg your pardon, they are ſo far from being over, that they continue while they live together. And therefore I ſhould ſay, being thus began, they are attended by another pleaſure, and that is houſe-keeping; now time begins to jog the bridegroom by the elbow, and tells him he ought to mind his buſineſs, for bags will ſon grow empty unleſs filled again. And what is houſe-keeping, and to get all things for it. He that goes a borrowing goes a ſorrowing, as the old proverb ſays. And ſure that woman is in an ill condition, who is obliged to borrow every thing ſhe wants.

Now if ſhe would be finer than the reſt of her neighbours, it is to her huſband's reputation, and that muſt give him pleaſure.——Good houſewifry and right management make things laſt long. It is to the honour of men to ſee cleanlineſs, nor do they love holes in their ſtocking heels, nor that their ruffles ſhould hang like bell-ropes; and yet they ſcorn to ſet the leaſt ſtitch in them themſelves: So therefore, to have a wife that will take care to have every thing done for him, muſt needs be a pleaſure to him; and what if ſometimes ſhe wants a Venetian carpet, or a little china-ware, ſurely no man in his wits would quarrel with his wife about ſuch trifles, when all would redound to his reputation; nay, ſuppoſe ſhe has a mind to a ſilver coffee or tea-pot, or a pair of ſilver ſconces, where is the harm of it? certainly the more plate a man has, the richer he is; this ought, therefore, to be pleaſure to him. And I can aſſure you, of my own knowledge, there are ſeveral husbands would be glad their wives had ſuch things: Beſides, ſuch things ſet out a room and make the kitchen, if the houſe be kept clean, have

reputation amongſt her neighbours.—There's ſuch a one's houſe looks like a paradiſe, ſays one. — It would do one's heart good to look at it, cries another. — And all will grant, it is the moſt provident way for a man to ſpend but little abroad, and keep the better houſe at home: and if ſo, he may well permit his wife to entertain her friends now and then without prejudice to her husband's eſtate. For a glaſs of wine taſtes as well at home as abroad; and a capon may be cheaper dreſſed in his own kitchen than at a French ordinary. And as for women wearing fine cloaths, which ſome object againſt, I ſay, it is for the honour of the nation in general, and muſt be a particular pleaſure to the husband, to ſee his wife as fine as any of her neighbours.

But there is another pleaſure attends upon Matrimony, and that is, if he has married a wife who has got a relation in the country, as it is ten to one but ſhe has, for men and women do not riſe out of the earth like pompions, but their pedigree had ſomewhere or other a beginning: If the woman has not, perhaps the man may. And whether their relations

be by the man or the woman, it is no matter, and therefore, when they have once contracted Matrimony, all their relations muſt be acquainted with it. And in return they muſt ſend up a letter, wherein they tell them they ſhall be very glad to ſee them both in the country.— Upon this ſhe, willing to ſee her friends before ſhe lies-in (for we will ſuppoſe her to be with-child already) and the man is no leſs ambitious to let his kindred ſee his nice choice. — And let us ſuppoſe the young man ſhould have a mind to give his wife an airing in the country, marry, I think it a pleaſure to him to take a friſk in the country for a month or two; and then to have the four bells in the ſteeple ſet a gangling for joy, to ſummon the inhabitants of the village to ſtare at the bride and bridegroom. ——And when they have been entertained by one couſin, to make a tour to another, and there to have all the welcomes renewed again, muſt needs be a marvellous pleaſure to them both, and more eſpecially to the husband, to ſee his wife ſo careſſed, and made much of among his friends.

But perhaps after all this great pleasure, now there is a sad complaint, That the young woman is not with-child! — This redounds to the young man's disgrace, and is a very great damp to the Pleasures of Matrimony. — But hold! not so fast, my friend, pray let all things be well considered, and the hare's foot set against the goose's giblets: for if there be no children, there is the less charge. And yet the pleasures of the bed are still the same, They live in the constant use of the means, and who can tell what may come of it? Rome was not built in one day. I doubt not but it is an allay to many a one's nocturnal pleasures, to think of the charge he is bringing upon himself, by satisfying a little amorous itch; but when he has done it, and done it, and done it again, and finds there is no danger, then he falls to it without fear or wit. Besides, there is another conveniency, they may live more plentifully, here are no portions to provide for children; when others are forced to sell part, and sometimes all their patrimony to provide portions for their children.

But all this does not satisfy the young woman. She fancies there is some peculiar pleasure when a child is gotten, and she longs to know it. And what makes her the more eager is, she is upbraided by heir neighbours: What! says one prating gossip, are you not quick yet, neighbour? No, nothing like it, nor toward it, as I know of. Lack-a-day cries she again, I han't been married thirteen months and yet this child is a quarter old. Aye, says the young woman, with a sigh, you have bestowed your time well; I have been married near eight months, and yet there is no sign of any thing coming. She had scarce spoke, before another gossip laid hold of the last words:—How! said she, married near seven months and nothing coming! believe me there's a fault on one side or the other. Do you think one of my age and complexion can be in the fault? I know myself so well, that I will leave all the world to judge of me. Patience a little, cries another of the gang, I have known some women have not been with-child till they have been married two or three years.——What! and you would have me stay so long, I warrant

you; but I will assure you, neighbour, you are mistaken. Just in the middle of this confabulation, in comes another and tells them she had been at Mrs. Breedwell's lying-inn. How! says another, is my neighbour Breedwell brought to bed? —Yes, of a lusty boy, replies the other. —How long has she been married? says the young woman; about eight months, replies the other. Ads heartikin, cried she, about eight months! why, I have been married so long myself, and do not know I am as yet with child.

This curious debate held them a long time, and had not been ended so soon, had not one, who was something wiser than the rest, come in, and addressing herself to the complainant, she said, Mistress, this case is difficult, but the best way to receive satisfaction is to go home, and take an exact dimension of your husband's instrument, as to length and compass, and then we may be able to form a better judgment, but till then, we can lay nothing positive. Another advised her to make much of him, and nourish him well up with yolks of eggs, oysters, cock-stones, craw-fish, Lobsters, perri-

winkles, beef marrow, skirret, with some muscadine or tent.——The young woman heard all this, but imagined all her cost would be thrown away, if she had not her full measure. And accordingly produced it the next time of meeting, which as they surveyed fill them with admiration, which one of them expressed in this manner, Neighbour, there is some other cause why you are not got with-child; if this be the right measure, I do swear your husband is a man every inch of him; and therefore we must needs tell you that the fault is not in him. I know not how it is, said the young woman, disconsolately, but I am sure I have given the exactest and truest measure. But, that the woman might not be cast down, Come, come, said one of the good natured creatures, who was for forwarding business, do not be cast down, but use means, and you may yet have children enough:—For I knew a young married couple, just in your case. And by the advice of a worthy and learned physician the wife was got with-child very effectually; and this was the process of the business.

The Doctor adviſed the husband to go into the country, and ſtay with his uncle for a fortnight, and then return home; but he ordered it ſo, that the laſt day's journey might be an eaſy one: and the wife had notice of his coming, and dreſt herſelf in all the gaiety ſhe could deviſe; and had a good ſupper of light digeſtion ready to ſit on the table at his arrival; expoſing to his view her fine ivory neck and lilly boſom bare. And three hours after ſupper, ſhe counſelled him to bed

here to take his reſt awhile. Then being both awake, to lay his hand upon the mount of Venus, and talk to her all the ſoft things which love could dictate to him; and when he by ſubh amorous diſcourſes had wrought his ſpirits up to

the higheſt pitch, then to fall on, a
feaſt himſelf with love's delightful da
ties. In ſhort, the Doctor's counſel w
obſerved to a nicety, and the ſucceſs a
ſwered their expectations; and not the
ſelves alone, but others too have fou
it efficacious.

Now tell me, all ye enemies to M
riage what pleaſure can a man imagi
is greater than for a man thus to give
wife and himſelf a ſecret and mutual
tisfaction.

You will be apt to aſk, Are thele
the Pleaſures of Matrimony? I anſwe
No, not a tenth part of them; but
deſign is to delight, not to ſurfeit you.

FINIS.